

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims Listing

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a protective immune response in a mammal in need thereof, ~~said the~~ method comprising administering to the a lung of said the mammal, a protective amount of an aerosol ~~formulation of Claim 1~~ comprising biodegradable microspheres of an average diameter of from 0.5 to 5 μ m comprising a non-living reagent that produces a protective immune response in a mammal to whom it is administered.

18. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the non-living reagent is an antigenic polypeptide or a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an antigenic polypeptide.

19. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the non-living reagent is a sub-unit vaccine.

20. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the non-living reagent is selected from the group consisting of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, *Botulinun* toxin FHC, *Bacillus anthracis* protective antigen (PA), or a polypeptide that generates a protective immune response against *Yersinia pestis*.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20 wherein the non-living reagent is the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof or a variant of these, or the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof or a variant of these, or a combination of these.

22. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the microspheres have an average diameter of less than 3 μ m.

23. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the microspheres comprise a biodegradable polyester.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the polyester comprises Poly-lactide (PL).

25. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the microcapsules are lyophilized.

26. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the non-living reagent is encapsulated within the microspheres.

27. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein the aerosol further comprises the non-living reagent in free form.